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IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

In re: Chapter 11

NEUMANN HOMES, INC., et al.,

Case No. 07-20412

(Jointly Administered)

Debtors. Hon. Eugene R. Wedoff

INDYMAC'S RESPONS TO VILLAGE OF GILBERTS MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM STAY

IndyMac Ventures, LLC ("IndyMac"), by and through its attorneys, states its position that the motion of the Village of Gilberts ("Gilberts") for relief from the automatic stay ("Stay Relief Motion") should be stricken as inconsistent with the Debtors' proposed Plan, and as possibly outside this Court's jurisdiction.

Funds that the Stay Relief Motion seeks to recover ("Improvement Fund") for use by Gilberts to pay legal and engineering fees it owes, cannot properly be awarded to Gilberts at this time for that or any other purpose. These funds are a portion of municipal bond proceeds:

- (i) That allegedly are ear-marked for particular specified uses by Gilberts upon submission of draw requests satisfying certain contractual conditions, and
- (ii) In which Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Indenture Trustee ("Bond Trustee"), claims to hold a security interest,

all under a December 1, 2006 Trust Indenture ("Indenture") entered into between Gilberts and the Bond Trustee.

The proposed Plan provides for the Debtor to transfer ownership of its Conservancy development in Kane County, Illinois to IndyMac, whereby IndyMac will receive all appurtenant rights, title and interests in and to this property. It is understood between IndyMac and the Debtors that a determination of the extent to which such rights and interests includes all or part

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of the Improvement Fund or the right to expenditure thereof for the benefit of further development of the Conservancy, is to be addressed and resolved separately from the Plan and outside the Debtors' bankruptcy proceedings. IndyMac further states its position as follows:

- 1. By its Stay Relief Motion, Gilberts seeks adjudication in its favor of its claim that legal and engineering fees it incurred may be paid from the \$355,160 balance remaining in the Improvement Fund that was created pursuant to the Indenture in connection with Special Service Area Number Nineteen Special Tax Bonds Series 2006-1 ("SSA-19 Bonds").
- 2. The Improvement Fund was established to facilitate development of the Conservancy and repayment of the SSA-19 Bonds. Cash deposited in the Improvement Fund was a contractually designated portion of proceeds from the sale of SSA-19 Bonds, which Article VII of the Trust Indenture states "shall be disbursed solely for the payment of the cost of acquiring, constructing and installing, and performing" certain "Special Services"—defined in an exhibit to the Trust Indenture as particular infrastructure improvements to the Conservancy.
- 3. Objecting to the Stay Relief Motion [Docket # 2120], the Bond Trustee thus contends that "under certain circumstances and conditions and for certain purposes, monies in the Improvement Fund may be disbursed by the Bond Trustee to the Village"; that Gilberts must submit a "Draw Request" meeting all requirements of the Indenture; and that the Bond Trustee holds a security interest in the Improvement Fund [Id. ¶¶2-3, at 2].
- 4. It is therefore possible that the subject matter of the Stay Relief Motion not only is outside the scope of the Debtors' proposed Plan, but also is outside of this Court's jurisdiction.
- 5. Further, as stated in its objection to the Stay Relief Motion [Docket # 2113], Platte River Insurance Company ("Platte River") issued a Subdivision Improvement Performance Bond, bonding the obligation of Debtor Neumann Homes, Inc. ("NHI") to complete

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certain underground improvements within the Conservancy as to which Gilberts has asserted a default by NHI and served notice of a claim on Platte River.

- 6. Platte River contends that to the extent Gilberts asserts a default by NHI in its obligation to complete underground improvements within the Conservancy, the Indenture does not permit and Court may not properly allow Gilberts to recover the \$355,160 balance remaining the Improvement Fund for payment of legal and engineering fees not directly related to performance of "Special Services" as provided for in and defined by the Indenture.
- 7. The Conservancy is in early stages of development, and secures a small portion of the Debtors' indebtedness to IndyMac. In exchange for a release of the Debtors from such indebtedness, their proposed Plan seeks to transfer ownership of the Conservancy to IndyMac. As noted above, IndyMac and the Debtors agree that a determination of the extent to which rights and interests to be so transferred to IndyMac entails the Improvement Fund or its expenditure for the benefit of further development of the Conservancy, is to be addressed and resolved separately from the Plan and outside the Debtors' bankruptcy proceedings.
- 8. Substantial interests of IndyMac (and potentially other parties) that would be adjudicated by a ruling on the Stay Relief Motion not only have been reserved for determination among interested parties at a later time upon transfer of the Conservancy to IndyMac, but also are neither ripe for hearing nor could otherwise be appropriately and fully heard simultaneously with the Court's consideration of the Debtors' request for confirmation of their proposed Plan.
- 9. Therefore, the adjudication sought by the Stay Relief Motion should await and be combined with future disposition of the Conservancy and determination of rights and obligations of the foregoing parties and Gilberts in respect to this and other assets that are related to or could be affected by disposition of the remaining balance of the Improvement Fund.

WHEREFORE, IndyMac Ventures, LLC respectfully requests that the Court strike the motion of the Village of Gilberts for relief from the automatic stay as inconsistent with the Debtors' proposed Plan, and as possibly outside this Court's jurisdiction.

Dated: January 26, 2010 INDYMAC VENTURES, LLC

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jonathan P. Friedland, hereby certify that on January 26, 2010, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the CM/ECF Participants:

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